

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, CVIS, HU, AU
SUBJECT: VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN HUNGARY AND
AUSTRIA

REF: BUDAPEST 2765; B) VIENNA 6299

1. MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF TRAVEL AND BORDER AFFAIRS,
DR. WALTER HIETSCH, TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 2 THAT GOA CON-
SIDERS VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY ONE OF MOST
SIGNIFICANT AGREEMENTS AUSTRIA HAS MADE WITH WARSAW PACT
COUNTRY IN FIELD OF SOCIAL/CULTURAL RELATIONS AND IN
CONTEXT OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HE SAID SIGNIFICANCE OF
SIMILAR AGREEMENTS MADE PREVIOUSLY WITH POLAND, BULGARIA
AND ROMANIA WAS GREATLY REDUCED BY LACK OF COMMON BORDERS.
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2. HIETSCH SAID AUSTRIANS ARE ALREADY ABLE TO SECURE VISAS
AT THE BORDER BUT DELAYS OF SEVERAL HOURS ARE COMMON. UNDER
NEW AGREEMENT, AUSTRIANS WILL STILL HAVE TO FILL OUT
"STATISTICAL CARD," AS THEY DO NOW, BUT GOA NEVERTHELESS
EXPECTS THIS SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE TO RESULT IN SURGE IN
TRAVEL OF AUSTRIANS TO HUNGARY. AS FOR TRAVEL OF HUNGARI-

ANS TO AUSTRIA, GOA ALSO HOPES FOR SIGNIFICANT INCREASE
AND BELIEVES THIS MIGHT BE CASE IF GOH GRADUALLY REDUCES
RESTRICTIONS AND SIMPLIFIES PROCEDURES FOR ISSUANCE OF EXIT
VISAS TO THOSE HUNGARIANS PERMITTED TO HAVE PASSPORTS.
HIETSCH THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY TIME WOULD TELL WHAT
EFFECT AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE ON TRAVEL BY HUNGARIANS.

3. HIETSCH SAID THREE TEDIOUS ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS WERE
NECESSARY TO REACH VISA AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY. ALTHOUGH
HUNGARY FACED SOME REAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN INCREASED
TRAVEL OF AFFLUENT AUSTRIANS TO HUNGARY, HIETSCH THOUGHT
SUCH PROBLEMS WERE EASILY RESOLVED THROUGH IMPOSITION BY
HUNGARY OF EXPORT EMBARGOES ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS AND BY
SEPARATE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY RELATED, AGREEMENT ON AUSTRIAN
CREDITS FOR IMPROVING TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN HUNGARY.
HIETSCH BELIEVED MAIN PROBLEMS FOR HUNGARY WERE POLITICAL,
AND THESE REQUIRED CAREFUL COORDINATION WITH SOVIETS AND
OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. WOLF

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